of the total population. The corresponding figure for the year 1993-94, was 320 million accounting for 36 percent of total population. Thus, in absolute terms, the number of persons living below poverty line declined by 18.3 million that is by 8.5 percentage points between 1993-94 and 2004-05.

(b) and (c) The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) envisages reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points.

(d) Does not arise.

Monitoring of Implementation of Programmes

651. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether special cells are proposed to be constituted in Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for monitoring implementation of programmes of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating constituents and task entrusted to each cell;

(c) whether, during the past five years, Government has had cells in PMO entrusted with the task of carrying out tasks of similar nature;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the quality of their effectiveness or otherwise;

(e) whether the proposed new special cells would supersede the older one or would be addition to them; and

(f) if it be the latter, the rationale thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (f) The President of India in her address to both the Houses of parliament on 4th June, 2009 *inter-alia* mentioned that the Government would initiate steps within the next hundred days for establishing a Delivery Monitoring Unit in the Prime Minister's Office to monitor flagship programmes and iconic projects and report on their status publicly. In this conection, it is stated that the Delivery Monitoring Unit (DMU) in PMO would basically be a monitoring and an oversight body and the primary responsibility of delivery and monitoring would continue to rest with the Ministries/Departments implementing the respective programmes and schemes. It is further stated that no such Cell existed during the past five years in the PMO.

Delivery Monitoring Unit

652. SHRI SABIR ALI:

SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delivery Monitoring Unit has been established in the Prime Minister's Office for flagship programmes and iconic projects; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Establishment of the Delivery Monitoring Unit in the Prime Minister's Office is in process.